

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 6, without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof, and amend the remaining claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for cleaning an ~~An~~ exhaust gas ~~cleaning method for~~ of internal combustion engine, wherein;

exhaust gas having an air-fuel ratio higher than a theoretical air-fuel ratio and exhaust gas having an air-fuel ratio less than or equal to ~~or smaller than~~ the theoretical air-fuel ratio are alternately made to contact a catalyst to clean the exhaust gas discharged from the internal engine thereby removing nitrogen oxides in exhaust gas;

said catalyst contains,

at least one ~~type~~ element selected from the group consisting of alkaline ~~metal~~ and alkaline earth ~~metal~~ metals in ¹any form of carbonate, oxide or complex oxide;

Rh in the form of a metal or an oxide, and Pt in the form of a metal or an oxide; and

a CO adsorbent component where the absolute value (ΔH) of CO adsorbent enthalpy on the metal single crystal (111) surface is

142 KJ/mol or more, said CO adsorbent component comprising at least one element selected from the group consisting of Pd, Ir, and Ru in the form of a metal or an oxide;

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~~said exhaust gas cleaning method further characterized in that the catalyst has a CO desorption temperature capacity that reaches the a maximum level at a temperature within the temperature range from 200 to 200°C in the event of temperature rise in HE gas flow when a heating test is performed exclusively on said catalyst by heating at the rate of 5 to 10°C/min. in a He gas flow after adsorption of CO to said catalyst by saturation~~ said catalyst is saturated with CO by adsorption at 100°C.

2. (Currently Amended) An exhaust gas cleaning method for internal combustion engine according to Claim 1 ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said CO adsorbent compound comprises at least one element type selected from the group consisting of Pd, Ir and Ru. *already in claim 1*

3. (Currently Amended) An exhaust gas cleaning method for an internal combustion engine according to Claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ said catalyst contains;

at least one type element selected from the group consisting of Ti, Si and Zr; in any form of carbonate, oxide or complex oxide; and

~~includes a composite oxide comprising said type(s) and~~ at least one element type selected from the group consisting of Na, Mg, K, Li, Cs, Sr and Ca in any form of carbonate, oxide or complex oxide.

4. (Original) An exhaust gas cleaning method for internal combustion engine according to Claim 1 wherein said catalyst further contains Ce.

5. (Currently Amended) An exhaust gas cleaning method for an internal combustion engine, comprising: wherein

(1) placing an exhaust gas cleaning catalyst [is placed] in an the exhaust gas flow path of the internal combustion engine, said catalyst capturing NO_x when the air-fuel ratio of exhaust gas is higher than theoretical air-fuel ratio, and removing said captured NO_x by reduction when the air-fuel ratio of exhaust gas is less than ^{than} ~~that or~~ equal to ~~or smaller than~~ theoretical air-fuel ratio; and

(2) causing an exhaust gas having an air-fuel ratio higher than the theoretical air-fuel ratio and an exhaust gas having an air-fuel ratio less than or equal to ~~or smaller than~~ the theoretical air-fuel ratio ~~are~~ alternately ~~made~~ to contact said catalyst, thereby removing nitrogen oxides in exhaust gas; wherein,

said catalyst contains,

at least one ~~type of~~ alkaline metal or alkaline earth metal selected from the group consisting of Na, Mg, K, Li, Cs, Sr and Ca, on the surface of a porous carrier; and

at least one ~~type~~ element selected from the group consisting of Pd, Ir and Ru;

wherein the

wherein the ratios of components relative to 100 parts by weight of said porous carrier are 5 to 30 ~~pts. wt.~~ 50 parts by weight for alkaline metal or alkaline earth metal in total, 8 to 35 ~~100 pts. wt.~~ parts by weight for Ti, 3 to 25 parts by weight for Si, 3 to 25 parts by weight ~~pts. wt.~~ for Zr, 0.05 to 0.5 parts by weight ~~pts. wt.~~ for Rh, 1.5 to 5 parts by weight ~~pts. wt.~~ for Pt, and 0.25 to 3 parts by weight ~~pts. wt.~~ for Pd, Ir and Ru in total; and ~~where the~~

said catalyst has a CO desorption temperature capacity that reaches the a maximum level at a temperature within the temperature range from 200 to 220°C in the event of temperature rise in He gas flow when a heating test is performed exclusively on said catalyst by heating it at the rate of 5 to 10°C/min. in a He gas flow after adsorption of CO to said catalyst by saturation said catalyst is saturated with CO by adsorption at 100°C.

6.-18. (Cancelled.)

IN THE ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE:

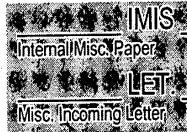
Please amend the Abstract of the Disclosure to read as provided on the attached page as required.

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